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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Hales Franciscan is the only historically African-American, all-male, Catholic college preparatory high school in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Hales Franciscan was founded in 1962 with the sole purpose of ensuring that African-Americans had access to a college preparatory education in the Catholic and Franciscan traditions; and

WHEREAS, For the past 50 years, Hales Franciscan has produced African-American male leaders who have embraced academic excellence, athletic tradition, community involvement, and leadership by example; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, Hales Franciscan embarked on the largest capital improvement campaign in the school's history, which includes the renovation of all classrooms, the installation of new energy-efficient windows and lighting, and the construction of new science and math labs; and

WHEREAS, In addition to creating a better academic environment, the school also plans to create a new home for the football, track, soccer, and lacrosse programs with the installation of an 8-lane track and stadium; and

1 WHEREAS, Hales Franciscan is grateful to the many
2 individuals and businesses that have supported the renovation
3 campaign, including the Polk Brothers Foundation, Basketball
4 Hall of Famer Michael Jordan, and several members of the
5 community; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 congratulate the administration, faculty, and students of
9 Hales Franciscan High School and their community of supporters
10 for the commencement of the school's ambitious capital
11 improvement campaign; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we designate the weekend of October 8-11,
13 2009, as "Hales Franciscan High School Rededication Weekend" in
14 the State of Illinois in honor of this momentous occasion; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the principal of Hales Franciscan High School as a
18 symbol of our respect and esteem.